

CREATION

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God is good!

Atheists would have us believe that God doesn't exist, that belief in Him is foolish, naive, backward or even repressive. As the British Humanist Association's 2009 advertising campaign on London buses infamously stated, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life". But is this true? The BHA might be surprised to learn that medical evidence suggests precisely the opposite: that belief in God is actually much better for your health.

The *Daily Mail* for 19th February 2011 published a major article by researcher Tom Knox, giving a wide range of evidence that demonstrates one can enjoy life far more when one trusts in God. Knox himself admits to having been a "teenage atheist" but was later forced to reconsider his viewpoint through the startling discoveries he made.

Knox recounts how he started research for a new book and initially

approached religious adherents with mocking cynicism. But then one night he suddenly realized that, very unusually, he felt safe even at 2am in a particular American city. Why? Because the majority of people there believed in God, and consequently they showed him kind and respectful behaviour. Nobody there was going to rob him; their beliefs made their city a safer place. Knox asked himself, "Why was I so supercilious about such happy, hospitable people?" And his attitude started to change.

He came to realize that an astonishing amount of all kinds of scientific evidence has built up in the last 30 years showing that religious belief is medically, socially and psychologically beneficial. He notes that in 2006 the American Society of Hypertension established that church-goers have lower blood pressure than the non-faithful. In the same year, population researchers at the University of Texas discovered that the more often you go to church, the longer you live. Two years earlier, scholars at

the University of California, Los Angeles, suggested that college students involved in religious activities are more likely to have better mental and emotional health than those who do not. More recently, an increase in life expectancy for those who attend church regularly was reported by the American Journal of Public Health, based on a major study of 2,000 people over a five year period.

Knox found psychosomatic benefits too. In 1990 the American Journal of Psychiatry reported that believers with broken hips were less depressed, had shorter hospital stays and could walk farther when they were discharged than similar individuals who had comparatively heathen beliefs. Other studies have found that believers recover from breast cancer quicker than non-believers; have better outcomes from coronary disease and rheumatoid arthritis; and are less likely to have children with meningitis. Another scientific study in 1999 found that going to a religious service or saying a few prayers actively strengthened your immune system. These benefits applied even after the study adjusted results to take account of the fact that believers are less likely to smoke, drink or take drugs. Yet another study, in 2002, showed that prayer reduced “adverse outcomes” in heart patients.

One of the most recent surveys found that religious people are happier than non-religious people. This is due in

part to the strong social network and ready support that comes from regularly sharing life - and its difficulties - with other believers. Far from the evolutionists’ belief that life is about “survival of the fittest”, Christians recognise that life is about loving each other under the hand of a loving Father God. Knox notes that the Harvard professors who undertook the research were so startled by their findings that they considered altering their own religious behaviour. He quotes one of them, Professor Chaeyoon Lim, as saying “I am not a religious person, but... I personally began to think about whether I should



Attending church - now scientific evidence agrees that it's good for you. Image: CSM

go to church.” It is not just the social aspect of religion that has an impact however. A study of nearly 4,000 older adults for the US Journal of Gerontology clearly suggested that there is a benefit in pure faith alone: religious people lived longer than atheists even if they didn’t go regularly to a place of worship.

Having surveyed all these scientific studies, Knox does not shrink from tackling the big question. He asks, “Given all this vast evidence that religion is good for you, how come the atheists seem so set against it? They pride themselves on their rationality, yet so much of the empirical evidence indicates that God is good for you. Surely, then, it is the atheists, not the devout, who are acting irrationally?” And “...contrary to expectation, it is the atheists who are eccentric, flawed and maladaptive, and it’s the devout who are healthy, well-adjusted and normal”.

All of this may perhaps go some way to explaining the behaviour of some notorious atheists. In the news recently has been the American atheist P. J. Myers, whose website *Pharyngula* (<http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/>) is subtitled “Evolution, development, and random biological ejaculations from a godless liberal”. Godless indeed. Prof Myers was in the UK recently and presented a lecture claiming to give embryological and developmental evidence for evolution. He had also promised to answer a series of questions that had been submitted in

advance by a highly regarded creationist, Jonathan Mclatchie. Sadly, Prof Myers reportedly did not keep his promise: he was unable to give any genuinely substantive answers to the questions but merely resorted to calling Mclatchie a “flaming moron”. As the old adage says, abuse is the last resort of those who have lost the argument. It is to be hoped that Prof Myers has the grace to reconsider his failed and scientifically bankrupt philosophy and comes to a repentant knowledge and faith in his Creator. For his own good.
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The “New” Science vs. the Gospel

Having strongly opposed the Gospel in the past, the apostle Paul knew what it is to be greatly deceived by one’s own reasonings and the thoughts of the culture. He was recognized as one of the greatest intellectuals of his time, yet one day on a road to Damascus he discovered that all of his profound learning did not measure up to God’s standard. Paul later used his intellectual abilities to become one of the strongest defenders of the faith in human history.

Today, there is a whole barrage of religious leaders who use their intellectual prowess to persuade Christians to abandon the fundamentals of the Christian faith for something more intellectually palatable to the postmodern mind. These leaders are

holding up a new standard suggesting the standard of the Gospel is outdated and a new standardized weight needs to be placed on the balance. Many of these emerging *progressive* leaders make it sound like they have made a new discovery that no one has thought of before they came along. But in reality this is nothing new, as philosophers of the past have believed that the human intellect is a wellspring of innate knowledge and ultimately the only source and deciding factor of truth.

In this postmodern era, some arrive at many of the same conclusions from a slightly different vantage point. They hold that the realm of science (a “new” quantum science they say) offers the wealth of knowledge we are looking for. Some have suggested that if we look at the physical world at the sub-atomic level, we will actually find God. At first, it seems like a wonderful idea to think that we can prove to an unbelieving world the existence of God. A good idea, that is, until we realize that we are again talking about another gospel – for to “discover” that God exists in all of creation at the sub-atomic level suggests a panentheistic view of God.

Yet Romans 1 distinguishes the creature from Creator (verse 25). In fact, the panentheistic view contradicts and discredits the whole Genesis account. Paul clarifies that there are two realities – physical and spiritual – and they are *not* the same (1 Corinthians 15:35-50). From Genesis

to Revelation, the Bible actually makes it very clear that God is separate from His creation. My question is, if God is spiritual rather than physical, when the scientists discover God at the sub-atomic level, what god will that actually be?

Needless to say, what is being passed off as cutting-edge spirituality is what Paul warned about when he talked about “vain philosophies” and “science falsely so called.” The fact is, God has given mankind the ability to reason and to make empirical observations, but no amount of human reasoning and scientific experimentation, in and of themselves, will enable man to arrive at God outside of that which is revealed in the Bible. For the Christian, the Gospel has been and always will be that standardized weight and the pivot from which we measure truth from error. Today, more than ever, the church is

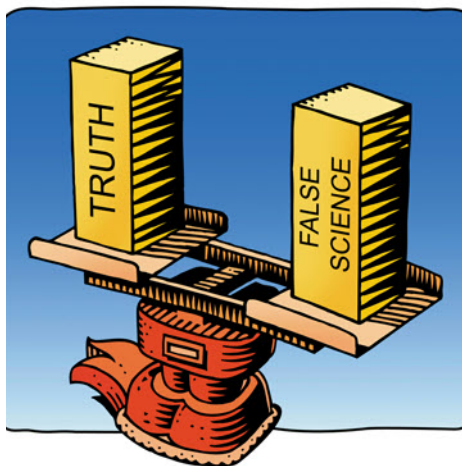


Image (adapted): B. F. Alexander,
www.rgbstock.com

plagued by such a vast assortment of spiritualities and false teachings, some of which are so subtle, that even the most discerning are vulnerable to dangerous deception.

(Extract from an article published 20 June 2011 by Editors at Lighthouse Trails Research Project, <http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/newsletters/2011/newsletter20110620.htm>, used with permission).

Secretive Coelacanths

An article on the BBC News website (www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/wondermonkey/2011/06/slow-reveal-of-the-coelacanths.shtml, accessed 30 June 2011) reports on a 21-year scientific study of the population of this enigmatic fish that lives off the Comoro Islands (another, rarer, species of coelacanth lives in Indonesian waters). The team of scientists used remotely operated vehicles to descend into the sea and investigate caves frequented by the coelacanths at a depth of 170-240m.

The BBC News article stresses that although the study has resulted in much new information, “it also gives away how much more we still don’t know”. And, “We still know so little about this ancient fish.” Yet the article also declares, confidently, “This is a fish that has survived almost unaltered for millions of years”. And, “The fish provided an immediate link to our dim

evolutionary past, resembling the lobe-finned fish that were likely the first to leave the water and take to land, ultimately begetting the amphibians, reptiles and mammals we see today, including the human race.” Given such breathtaking non-sequiturs, one quite wonders what the BBC will tackle next. The concept of spherical cubes, perhaps?

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Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

2 April p.19 How the chemical food for human thought evolved

Shanghai scientists have analysed brain tissue from dead humans, chimps and rhesus macaques to study chemicals linked to metabolism. **“In the human prefrontal cortex, the level of 24 of these were drastically different from the levels in the corresponding brain regions of the other primates. In the cerebellum, however, there were far fewer differences... This suggests that since our lineage split off from other primates, the evolution of metabolism in the thinking and learning parts of our brains has gone much further than in our ‘primitive’ cerebellum... Brain metabolism probably played an important part in evolution of human cognition.”**

In other words, by first assuming that humans have evolved from the same stock as primates such as chimps, these

scientists were able to suggest that the thinking and learning parts of our brains had evolved. These observations can equally well be used to show that the brains of humans are distinct from those of primates. After all, we were made in the image of a wise Creator.

2 April p.32 Evolution in the fast lane

This article is imaginatively illustrated by fish crawling out of the water and becoming amphibians, as well as by dark and light forms of peppered moths and by Galapagos finches that **“are still inspiring discoveries into the processes of evolution”**. Marine sticklebacks over a few generations lose some of their armour plates as they move into freshwater. In lakes they outgrow and out-compete fully armoured fish.

On a Hawaiian island, a mutation of the wings of crickets prevented them from making their characteristic mating noise. Since this noise attracted a parasitic fly that laid eggs which ate the crickets, the mutation spread quickly in the population as the noisy ones were killed off.

These are examples of changes within a kind – nothing to do with imagined evolution from one kind into another. In the case of the crickets, it is a mutation causing the loss of a useful function. In the case of the fish, moths and finches, it is to do with pre-existing genetic diversity – alleles of genes that do the same things but may be more fit under changing conditions. The varying beaks of Darwin’s finches, for

example, change with the availability of different sizes of the seeds they eat.

“People think evolutionary changes are imperceptible in the short term but add up to big changes over millions of years,” the article says. **“In fact, the opposite is true. It now appears that organisms evolve very rapidly in response to any changes in their environment, but in the longer term most evolutionary changes cancel each other out... Rather than going somewhere slowly, evolution usually goes nowhere fast.”** The types of finches and moths vary backwards and forwards, as conditions change.

What evolutionists don’t seem to realise is that variation cannot be extrapolated to macro-evolution. Variation uses pre-existing genes, whereas macro-evolution would require the formation of new genes. Genetic information is lost, not created, by mutations. In the case of the crickets, mutations make the best of a bad situation.

9 April p.15 The ‘tree of lice’ hints at mammalian evolution

We are told that the fossil record of lice is sparse before the K-T boundary. The lice are found on birds and mammals. The picture in the original reference in *Biology Letters* is of a fossil, and a living louse that is unchanged from its fossil forebear. The lice found are of various types, as today, and are given the usual geological dates. It is concluded from this that mammals began to diversify before the most recent dinosaur fossils. Previously it

had been assumed that mammals evolved after the death of the giant reptiles.

If the record is interpreted in terms of a year-long world-wide flood, we are looking at communities of birds, mammals and their associated parasites overwhelmed, sorted and buried in sediments. Nothing to do with evolution.

16 April p.8 Higgs could die a colourful death

The heading is a play on a novel theory called ‘technicolour’ that “**proposes the existence of a fifth fundamental force in addition to the four already known: gravity, electromagnetism, and the strong and weak nuclear forces...** Technicolour fills empty space with a sea of techniquark-antiquark pairs, and as particles travel through the sea, they gain mass. Because it can give particles mass, technicolour renders the Higgs unnecessary.”

You will remember that the Higgs or ‘god particle’ is thought to give matter its mass, but sadly no one can find it. The Large Hadron Collider has been looking for it.

Now a strange signal at America’s Fermilab hints that a new force or particle may have been found. Professor Brian Cox tweets: ‘If this stands up to scrutiny and more data... then it is RIP Standard Model.’ How long will it be before it is RIP Big Bang theory, and RIP Darwinism, and all other ‘Alice in Wonderland’ theories?



Image (adapted) in the public domain.

16 April p.16 Fossil shows how the jaw became the ear

“The lower jaws of modern mammals have just one bone: the tooth-bearing dentary. Reptiles, by contrast, also sport smaller bones where the jaw meets the skull... Of interest is a bridge called Meckel’s cartilage which connects the small bones to the jaw.” (Some snakes can temporarily dislocate their jaws in order to swallow large prey.)

If reptiles evolved into mammals, it is suggested that the extra jaw bones of reptiles migrated to form the three bones in the mammalian ear.

A newly discovered fossil from China has an ossified Meckel's cartilage and, miraculously, "shows how it supported some of the post-dentary bones as they shifted into the ear." However, the accompanying diagram shows the small bones still attached to the jaw. One wonders how the imagined transitional forms managed to eat and hear while the bones migrated. Just So.

16 April p.29 Usama Hasan

Here is an interview with a Muslim imam in east London who is also a physicist and senior lecturer in Middlesex University. He thinks that evolution theory is entirely compatible with the story of Creation as found in the Koran. He has written and taught that Muslims should move beyond the **"simplistic idea... that God created Adam from clay and then breathed life into him. This literal interpretation of the Koran is still the dominant position."** When an on-line petition suggested Hasan was not fit to lead prayers in his mosque, as he had been doing for 25 years, he decided to clarify his position with a lecture in the mosque. The talk was disrupted by the faithful and had to be abandoned. At the lecture, a leaflet was distributed saying that anyone believing in evolution or propagating such ideas must be killed. Because he has young children, Hasan has had to retract his ideas. He says: **"A lot of people enjoy**

science programmes on TV such as those by David Attenborough, but they tend to say he's an unbeliever so we can't trust him."

Christian creationists would agree with this sentiment, but would leave the Creator Himself to judge such infidels.

16 April p.32 The free will delusion

The writer believes that our behaviour is determined by neural reactions in our brains, but **"even faced with incontrovertible evidence that behaviour is pre-determined, we still see ourselves as free and responsible for our own actions."**

"Will the manifest truth of determinism kill off belief in free will, taking down notions of moral culpability and punishment with it? Will nihilism, moral disintegration and anarchy follow?"

"Neuroscientists increasingly describe our behaviour as a result of a chain of cause-and-effect, in which one physical brain state or pattern of neural activity inexorably leads to the next, culminating in a particular action or decision." Most scientists and philosophers, according to this article, assume that all mental states – including belief and desire – have neurobiological underpinnings.

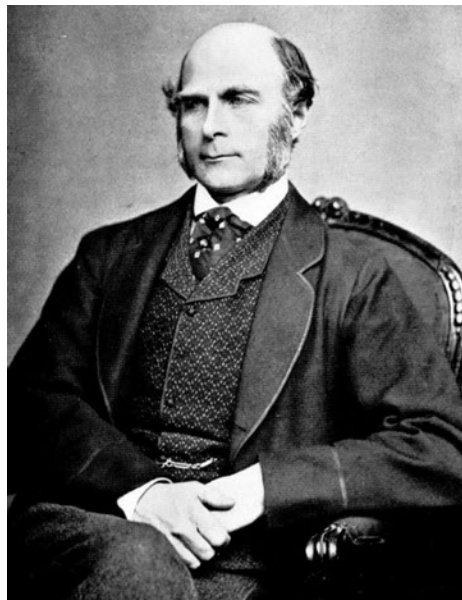
In a series of experiments where subjects were challenged about their views on free will, those dissuaded were, on average, less altruistic and behaved more aggressively. On the other hand, those who believed strongly in free will also tended to have more positive expectations about their

career prospects. These were also rated as performing better than those less convinced of their own free will.

Those of us who know that we are created in the image of God, realise that we have the ability choose. We are responsible for our words and actions.

16 April p.43 The numbers game

Francis Galton, explorer and cousin of Charles Darwin, invented the idea of eugenics. According to this pseudo-science, those unfortunates deemed to be physically, mentally or morally sub-standard were often sterilised in order that the human stock might be improved. This practice persisted in western civilised countries up until the middle of the twentieth century, when Galton's ideas were used to justify the Nazi treatment of Jews and Gypsies. In



Francis Galton. Image in the public domain.

his explorations in tropical South Africa Galton encountered the Damara tribe who use no numeral greater than three. The reports of his travels reflected the prejudices of a gentleman of the growing Victorian empire. **“His preoccupation with the supposed inferiority of other peoples persisted in his later work in eugenics. Within 10 years, however, those same reports of primitive innumeracy were being used by the finest scientific minds of Victorian Britain to glimpse the savage condition of prehistoric humans.”**

“Among his many fans, his cousin Charles Darwin wrote to profess ‘how very much I admire the spirit and style of your book’.”

By 1859 the field of ‘prehistory’ was born. Humans had seemingly evolved from primitive cave dwellers. For evidence, scientists cited the state of present-day peoples. Anthropologist E. B. Taylor declared that ‘the condition of mankind in the remote antiquity of the race is not unfairly represented by modern savage tribes’.

So the idea of the evolution of man was based on an encounter with present-day uncivilised tribes. If the anthropologists had believed Scripture, they would have known that the first man was created ‘very good’, and his pre-flood descendants were skilled musicians and metal-workers who built cities.

16 April p.49 Time for action

“Do we really need a global project called Action for Happiness? One of

its main architects, Richard Layard, explains his thinking.”

“... If we want to explain the variation of happiness, income is not the main driver. For that we need to look at the quality of people’s relationships and their mental health. Compared with the past, people are less happy with their marriages” and trust one-another less. “We have evidence that people who care more about others are happier than more selfish people.”

“What is truly new here is that this is a secular movement for radical cultural change. There is a clear hunger.”

Some might speculate that it is the aggressive secularisation of our society that has made folk less contented and trusting. One Authority has taught that it is those who hunger and thirst after righteousness who are happy! The Psalmist also begins by stating ‘Happy is the man ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD’.

23 April p.5 Still no dark matter

In last May’s journal, p.8 we reported that observations had ruled out MA-CHOs as the source of dark matter. Cosmologists were pinning their faith on WIMPs.

Here the results of an experiment to detect WIMPs is reported. “**The Xenon100 experiment, deep below a mountain at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory near L’Aquila, Italy, uses a tub of liquid xenon to detect WIMPs. The particles, if they exist, should occasionally hit the xenon atoms, producing telltail light signals.**

But no unexpected signal was seen in 100 days.”

As we reported in May, without these signals “**physicists are going to have to throw out much of what they think they know about dark matter and dream up new possibilities”.**

30 April p.5 Setback for SETI

“**SETI, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, has stopped at the Allen Telescope Array in California. The array listened out for alien radio communications until budget cuts by the National Science Foundation and the state of California called a halt to activity”**

Perhaps that should have read ‘inactivity’ since no aliens have called Allen since the search began.

30 April p.32 Unnatural selection

“**Humans have become the biggest force in evolution... So as we alter the planet ever faster and more drastically, we are becoming the main force driving evolution. The intensity of the ecological effect of man is pretty obvious... There is an amazing amount of evolutionary change as a result.”**

Yet all the examples cited in this article are about variation within a kind; not about macro-evolution as propounded by Charles Darwin with his ‘tree of life’. Animal predators target the small and weak, so the remaining prey have genes for normal-sized creatures. But man, the trophy hunter, goes for the stags with the most impressive antlers, or the elephants with the largest tusks.



Male bighorn sheep are capable of growing enormous horns - but a hunter's trophy on the wall does not contribute to a gene pool. Image: A. Kowalyszyn, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Licence.

Those spared reproduce creatures with smaller appendages. This has resulted in a fall in the average size of caribou, while Canadian and French bighorn sheep are ‘evolving’ into small-horn sheep. Elephant tusks are now smaller or even lost altogether in Sri Lanka where poaching is prevalent.

In Finland, grey owls have an advantage over brown owls when there is lots of snow, but climate warming, said to be man-made, is increasing the proportion of the brown variety that is better camouflaged when the snow has receded.

Variation within a kind takes advantage of the presence within a population of alleles – varieties of genes that do the same job. We see this in many creatures, such as domestic dogs. On the other hand, macro-evolution (imagined changes of dinosaurs into birds, etc.) would require new genes with new genetic information. This

cannot and does not happen.

Stephen Palumbi of Stanford University knows this yet still calls it evolution:

“Rapid evolution generally depends on the existing variation within a population, rather than on new mutations. ‘It is limited to the kind of changes that can happen quickly’, Palumbo says.” There is a **“dramatic loss of genetic diversity – the fuel for further evolution.”**

Other examples of so-called evolution are the acquired resistance to the pesticide DDT by many plants and insects.

“Peppered moths are the poster boys of evolution caused by humans.” Yet throughout all the changes in populations from light to dark forms and back again they remain *Biston betularia*. Here it is called the most famous example of evolution in action in response to pollution. In a junior school pupil that error might be excusable, but in Michael Le Page, biology features editor of *New Scientist*, it is not.

7 May p.14 Asteroids make life’s raw material

An asteroid that dropped in on Australia in 1969 was found to contain **“amino acids and some of the chemicals found in our genetic material.”**

Under conditions of heat and radiation experienced by asteroids falling through our atmosphere, one would expect simple organic reactions to take place, starting with compounds like formaldehyde, HCHO, as found in space. This chemical can be manipulated in the lab to give many biomolecules. Of course, the products could not have the necessary stereo specificity.

Italian chemists have taken a gram of the meteorite, ground it up fine, and removed all the organic stuff. They then cooked the mineral with formaldehyde for a couple of days at 140°. **“The reaction produced nucleic acids – essential building blocks of DNA and RNA – as well as the [simplest] amino acid glycine, carboxylic acids and a precursor to sugar.”** This is a variation on Miller’s 1953 experiments, simple organic chemistry where the products lack the stereo specificity that characterises biomolecules. Even 100% pure DNA together with proteins composed of only left-handed amino acids would be lifeless without all the machinery that is found in a living cell. The nucleic acids have to carry specific genetic information, and have the apparatus to read the message and use it.

7 May p.16 Dark matter may vary with seasons

The trouble is that if one doesn’t accept that in the beginning God made the heavens, earth, sun, moon and stars, not so many thousands of years ago, then the alternative is nothing

exploding into everything in a big bang. That, in turn, requires belief in inflation, dark energy and dark matter, although there is no observational evidence to substantiate them.

“No one knows what dark matter is – astronomers merely detect its apparent gravitational pull on normal matter, which it seems to outweigh by a factor of 5 to 1. One popular theory holds that it is made of theoretical particles called WIMPS, which interact only weakly with normal matter.”

Detectors such as in the above cutting for 23rd April claim to have produced occasional flashes that ebb and flow with the seasons. It has been argued that earth’s velocity relative to the ‘sea of dark matter’ changes as the planet orbits the sun. **“However, other researches have suggested that more mundane phenomena – such as varying demand on the electricity grid to which the experiment is connected”** might explain the seasonal signal.

7 May p.20 Toxic gas may stop malaria in its tracks

The Neo-Darwinist theory of evolution requires sequences of beneficial mutations in genes for its onwards and upwards progression from protozoa to people. A minor problem is that mutations never involve a gain in genetic information so the vast majority of mutations are in the range neutral to lethal.

The text-book example of a beneficial mutation is the one that causes sickle-

cell disease. People carrying this mutant gene are protected from malaria, so in places where malaria is endemic, the gene is commonplace. Folk who inherit such genes from both of their parents suffer from a low intake of oxygen and don't live long enough to pass on their faulty genes. However, those who inherit only one gene still have some resistance to malaria. This is because the infected and misshapen blood cells die before the malaria parasite can incubate within them. (Here it is suggested that low doses of the toxic gas CO could protect against malaria.)

Like Lewis Carol's Queen, evolutionists must believe six impossible things before breakfast! And they say that Creation is a faith position.

7 May Instant Expert – Astrobiology

Evolutionists have said that 'Creation science' is an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

Creationism, they claim, is not science, but rather the opposite of scientific. Astrobiology would be the study of living things on the stars, or in space. Is 'astrobiology' an oxymoron?

“Is there other intelligent life out there? To some it seems inevitable that there must be – it's a very big universe. But it is also possible that we and our home world are a rarity, a Goldilocks event in time,

space and the roulette wheel of evolutionary history.”

'Prebiotic chemicals' is another oxymoron banded about in this 8 page pull-out. Life has never been made from chemicals. Almost every other sentence contains optimistic phrases such as: we think that, suppose that, this would mean that, there could be, we don't know how, as well as words like could, should, might and maybe.

A number of constraining conditions conspire to support life on earth, such as our distance from the sun and the presence of liquid water. But all of these conditions together are not enough to produce life. Beyond the biomolecules there is the genetic information from the intelligent source, namely our Creator, the LORD Jesus Christ. 'For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by



The existence of free water; the right atmosphere; the right distance from the sun; the influence of the moon on tides - these and many other factors have to be just right to permit life. Our world is clearly a designed planet. Image: CSM.

Him and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.’ (Colossians 1:16-17)

14 May p.52 Living machines

This is a brief review of the book *Engineering animals: How life works*, by Mark Denny and Alan McFadzean.

“Animals are machines: walking, running, crawling, flying, sensing machines.” The book examines these machines **“with the critical eyes of engineers, investigating the technical workings of animal adaptations from snail slime to sonar... all the while marvelling at nature’s exquisite and often surprising solutions.”**

“The adaptations can be superb. Consider the giraffe, which has a 12-kilogram heart to pump blood at high pressure up to its head. Or the albatross, which can fly over 1000 kilometres per day thanks to a clever

skeletal shoulder-locking mechanism which keeps its wings outstretched.”

“*Engineering Animals* is rather a celebration of nature’s ingenuity.”

However, we would suggest that these engineers haven’t been critical enough. Fossil bats have always had echo-location, ants in amber have always farmed aphids for honey, and orb spiders have always woven the same design of web. Nature cannot create these exquisite and surprising designs. But the One who created the whole of nature can, and did. Exquisite, superb, clever, ingenious – these terms are wholly inadequate to describe the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the seas and all that is therein.

21 May p.10 Stem cell bust as mice reject own tissue

“Hopes that people might one day be given transplants made from their own cells have been dashed by experiments trying out the procedure in mice... Xu says that humans and mice are naturally programmed to reject cells that produce Oct 4, because the protein is normally only produced fleetingly during embryonic development and could be dangerous if produced in adult organisms... Some people claim research using human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) should be halted because iPS [induced pluripotent stem] cells are just as versatile but can be



The amazing ability of bats to navigate by echo-location needs sophisticated sound production, reception and interpretation equipment, all of which must be simultaneously present and fully functional to confer any advantage at all. How then could these have evolved gradually, over millennia? The evidence speaks rather of deliberate design. Image in the public domain.

obtained without destroying embryos.”

The editorial (p.3) says that although the iPS rejection problem will be overcome, researches should continue to study hESCs. In the US recently, research on human embryonic stem cells has been restricted because of the ethical objection.

28 May p.33 Creature contacts

“Our long affair with animals has been a driving force in human evolution.” According to Prof. Pat Shipman of Penn State University, tool-making, language and domestication have all influenced our relationship with animals. Yet no other animal but the human one cares for other species – **“lions do not care for giraffes”**.

According to Genesis, God gave man dominion over the animals. Man was unique in being created in the image of God. Following the flood when we were permitted to eat meat, the Lord God put the fear of man into animals. Animals were classified as clean and unclean. A host of creatures feature in the Scriptures, ranging from apes to wolves, and caring for the welfare of them is emphasised in both Testaments. God’s care of sparrows was used by the Lord Jesus to assure us of His love for man.

The professor has been reading the wrong books!

4 June p.7 Imams 4 Darwin

This short news report reads: **“Muslim leaders have been invited to sign an**

open letter declaring there is no contradiction between their faith and the acceptance of evolution. Organised by the online Clergy Letter Project, the ‘Imam Letter’ joins the ‘Clergy Letter’ and the ‘Rabbi Letter’, by which 12,725 Christian and 476 Jewish clerics have backed evolution.”

The truth or falsity of Darwinism does not stand or fall by the numbers of its followers, but the soundness or otherwise of its science. These letters indicate that evolutionism is a faith system, a religion, just as much as creationism is, and is an attempt to proselytise those of other faiths. That is why the teaching, or even mentioning, of Creation in school science lessons is so fanatically opposed.

As well as showing that science and history are in line with the Bible, CSM encourages belief in the whole of Scripture.

11 June p.20 I spy with my giant eye a host of new galaxies

“In a remote part of Guizhou province in southern China, construction has begun on a true behemoth of engineering, the Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST), an instrument that promises to transform radio astronomy.

“Tens of thousands of new galaxies – invisible to optical telescopes – will come into focus as FAST picks up on faint radio emissions from the neutral hydrogen gas they contain. This will give clues to the nature of

[hypothesised] **dark matter and galactic evolution.**

“Closer to home, FAST will join the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. It will be able to study 5000 sun-like stars for alien transmissions.” SETI has so far failed to catch a single alien transmission, though a few years ago they got quite excited by what turned out to be Australians near their receiver using remote controls to open garage doors when returning from work.

11 June One minute with... Robin Ince

“Britain’s funniest geek celebrates the amusement he finds in seeing the world through godless eyes.

“Comedian Robin Ince presents the BBC radio show *Infinite Monkey Cage* with physicist Brian Cox.

“You seem to be on a mission to geekify the UK. Why?

‘I think it is a pity to live your life in ignorance and embrace that ignorance – for instance with ideas like intelligent design. We live in a world that is entirely powered by reason; everything in your office and my house exist because of reason. It is a very odd world where people reject reason and yet benefit from the riches of reason.’”

This ‘rationalist’ declares: **“‘Death is a kick up the backside...I want to live as good a life as possible because my consciousness will one day come to an end. I want to fit in as much as I can before it switches off.’”**

One wonders if Robin was chosen to appear at this year’s Cheltenham Science Festival because of his scientific genius, or was it his comedic philosophy.

11 June p.28 The plain person’s guide to bullsh-t

Philosopher Stephen Law here gives his top tips for spotting the strategies people use to justify believing in bunkum (or what he considers bunkum). A quote: **“Any theory, no matter how ludicrous, can be squared with evidence, given enough ingenuity. Every last anomaly can be explained away. There is a popular myth about science that if you can make your theory consistent with the evidence, then that shows it is confirmed by that evidence – as confirmed as any other theory. Lots of dodgy belief systems exploit this myth. Young Earth creationism – the view that the whole universe is less than 10,000 years old – is a good example. Given enough shoehorning and reinterpretation, you can make whatever turns up ‘fit’ what the Bible says.”**

So, who is re-interpreting Creation in the Bible to mean evolution? Certainly not 6-day creationists!

And who is spouting bunkum as they bash creationism and intelligent design while they themselves are looking for extra-terrestrials and dark matter and suggesting that our relationship to dogs and cattle helped man to evolve?

11 June p. 32 Battle of the bulge

“Spiral galaxies are eye-catching beauties, but their oddly slimline forms could spell trouble for our theories of the cosmos.”

Just one telling quote: **“Galaxies are complicated and we don’t really understand how they form’, says Peebles. ‘It’s really an embarrassment.’”** (Jim Peebles is a Princeton University cosmologist).

18 June p.20 Scuba spider uses web as gill to breathe underwater

The diving-bell spider takes air from a bubble that it grabs from the surface of water using fine hairs on its abdomen. It traps the air in a web that it carries around underwater like an aqualung. **“As the spider takes oxygen out of the air in the bubble, more diffuses in through the silk from the water; carbon dioxide moves in the opposite direction.”** Some 70 per cent of a spider’s oxygen comes from diffusion

through the web. Spiders can survive underwater for more than 24 hours, allowing them to stay out of sight of predators and prey alike.

This looks suspiciously like a design feature, and I doubt if the spider designed it itself. Getting it right by trial and error would ensure that the spider drowned.

18 June p.30 In praise of the weird

The article discusses creatures assumed to have become extinct but that have subsequently been rediscovered.

“Until 1951, the Bermuda petrel had not been seen by scientists for 330 years. The Javan elephant, okapi, coelacanth, mountain pygmy possum, venomous Cuban solenodon and giant terror skink were also erroneously consigned to oblivion. The Laotian rat, discovered in 1996, is now the sole known representative of a rodent family that was thought to have vanished 11 million years ago.

The Wollemi pine – the only known survivor of a 200-million-year-old plant family – was discovered in 1994 just a stone’s throw from Sydney, Australia.”

These ‘Lazarus species’ must all have been alive all the time since last noted in the fossil record. Their survival casts doubt on the veracity of the millions-of-years dating system. Is it not more reasonable to suppose that all the fossils were deposited in the year of Noah’s flood?



Male and female diving-bell spiders, *Argyroneta aquatica*. Image: Wikipedia, Baupi, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

Some plants survived on floating rafts of vegetation, while animals were saved in the Ark.

25 June p.34 The evolution machine

Automated genome engineering describes an iterative process (repeated cycling) that adds genes or combinations of genes to bacteria at every cycle to see what turns up after many cycles of the machine. **"If the evolution machine works really well, someone somewhere will try it on humans."**

Any volunteers?

Making monkeys

"Despite the fact that human/ape genetic similarities are often overstated, yes, in many instances it is true that humans and chimps have very high levels of genetic similarity. Does this functional genetic similarity bolster neo-Darwinian evolution and human/ape common ancestry? Not at all. In fact, we could have predicted these similarities without any knowledge of Darwinian evolution simply by observing that humans have similar body plans to apes. If similar morphology implies similar genetics, then we could predict these high levels of similarities without even thinking about considerations pertaining to common ancestry."

Casey Luskin

"Whatever the genetic match, humanity's communication and tool-making are obviously incomparably different from chimpanzee achievements; neither do primates worship or create masterworks of art and music. Darwin himself recognized this mysterious gap, which is described poetically in Psalm 8."

"Can the Bible's theology be true if the historical events on which the theology is based are false?... If science trumps Scripture, what does this mean for the virgin birth of Jesus, or his miracles, or his resurrection? The hermeneutics behind theistic evolution are a Trojan horse that, once inside our gates, must cause the entire fortress of Christian belief to fall."

Richard N. Ostling

Books

My holiday reading included one new book and one old 'classic':

Serious Mistranslations of the Bible, by Jacques More, 2011, £7-99, available at www.jarom.net.

As with all languages, ancient and modern, Greek as used in the Septuagint version of the Bible contains some words that can have different meanings, depending on the context of the passage. One of the words More discusses is *genea*, usually translated 'generation'. However it not infrequently is used to mean 'a family grouping', 'a race' or 'kinsmen'.

A text that has puzzled many Christians was spoken by our Lord in Matthew 24:34 (and repeated by Mark and Luke): Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things are fulfilled.

Since that generation of disciples was not the last one before Christ's second coming, we need to consider alternative readings for *genea*. Peter, John and Paul expected to die before the Lord's return, as in John 21 and II Tim. 4. Is the *genea* a reference to the Children of Israel, the Israelis? Jeremiah 31 prophecies: If those ordinances (sun, moon & stars) depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me for ever.

Daniel 9:24 also links God's people and the second coming.

Many of the races mentioned in the Bible are no more, yet despite their dispersion from their homeland and persistent persecution over the past two millennia, the Jews remain a racial entity. According to prophecy that will continue until the Lord returns and the sun, moon and stars become redundant. So a better rendering of Matt 24:34 would be: The children of Israel will certainly not pass away till all is fulfilled.

Another book that I had read with profit decades ago was *Holiness*, by J.C. Ryle, first published in 1879, just 20 years after Darwin's Origin of Species. The bishop writes:

'In reviews, magazines, newspapers, lectures, essays and sometimes even in

sermons, scores of clever writers are incessantly waging war against the very foundations of Christianity. Reason, science, geology, anthropology, modern discoveries, free thought, are all boldly asserted to be on their side. No educated person, we are constantly told nowadays, can really believe natural religion, or the plenary inspiration of the Bible, or the possibility of miracles.'

Ryle goes on to show from Scripture that this is a sign of the last days. Increasingly we need to be looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

DR

You write

"I just wanted to send a brief note of thanks for the journals and pamphlets we continue to be blessed by... It is so valuable to be able to read the Scriptures and to believe what I'm reading – largely thanks to your ministry."

RB, Cheshire

50 Years after The Genesis Flood

Moorlands College is hosting a School of Apologetics event to reflect upon scientific and theological issues that arise from Whitcomb and Morris' book, *The Genesis Flood*, first published in

1961. The College writes; “The book brought science and faith together in a way that some found liberating, and others found exasperating. But it set the agenda for the ongoing debate between creation and evolution, theism and atheism. Fifty years on, how has the debate developed? This conference brings specialists in apologetics, geology, philosophy and hermeneutics together to reflect on its significance today.”

Speakers:

Dr Chris Sinkinson - Genesis Flood: 50 years of apologetics?

Dr John D. Matthews - The Geology of the Genesis Flood: Still Moving Mountains?

Andrew Sibley - Relating Science and Theology in the Light of the Genesis Flood

Alistair McKitterick - Before and After the Flood in Genesis

To be held on 5th November 2011,
9:00am - 3:30pm at Moorlands College,
Sopley, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23
7AT.

Cost £10 (Student concessions £5).

To book: contact Nes DuFeu

email: nes.dufeu@moorlands.ac.uk

or call 01425 674500.

website: www.moorlands.ac.uk



Evidence of the Genesis Flood: ammonite fossils at Lyme Regis, UK. Image: CSM.

Notes, articles, letters, quotations, images and other contributions to the CSM Journal are warmly welcome and may be sent to info@csm.org.uk

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